

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**1-11 (Canceled)**

12. (New) A vessel for dissolution testing of an annular pharmaceutical delivery device, comprising:

an inert vessel wall and an inert vessel bottom such that the vessel is able to hold a fluid medium; and

an inert retainer provided by or at the vessel wall or vessel bottom, for holding the annular pharmaceutical delivery device and providing a passageway to the vessel bottom for a sampling tube.

13. (New) The vessel according to claim 12, wherein the vessel wall and the vessel bottom together form one transparent glass entity.

14. (New) The vessel according to claim 12, wherein the retainer comprises an annular plate, which annular plate comprises the passageway for the sampling tube in the middle of the annular plate, and the annular plate is placed inside the vessel at the vessel wall.

15. (New) The vessel according to claim 12, wherein the retainer is permanently fixed to the vessel wall or the vessel bottom.

16. (New) The vessel according to claim 12, wherein the retainer is selected from the group consisting of one or more annular ledges protruding inwardly from the vessel wall or vessel bottom, one or more annular rims protruding inwardly from the vessel wall or vessel bottom, and one or more bulges protruding inwardly from the vessel wall or vessel bottom.

17. (New) The vessel according to claim 16, wherein the retainer comprises two sets of bulges formed by indentation of the vessel wall or vessel bottom.

18. (New) A method for preparing a vessel according to claim 15, comprising melting or gluing the retainer to the vessel wall or vessel bottom.

19. (New) A method for dissolution testing of an annular pharmaceutical delivery device containing an amount of a drug, the method comprising:

 placing a fluid medium and stirring means in a dissolution vessel comprising:

 an inert vessel wall and an inert vessel bottom such that the vessel is able to hold the fluid medium, and

 an inert retainer provided by or at the vessel wall or vessel bottom, for holding the annular pharmaceutical delivery device and providing a passageway to the vessel bottom for a sampling tube;

 placing the annular pharmaceutical delivery device in the retainer; rotating the stirring means to circulate the fluid medium in the dissolution vessel;

 inserting a sampling tube through the passageway; and sampling one or more predetermined volumes of the fluid medium at selected time intervals by means of the sampling tube.

20. (New) An apparatus for dissolution testing of an annular pharmaceutical delivery device, comprising:

 one or more dissolution vessels according to claim 1,
 one or more stirring means; and
 a sampling and/or discharging device with one or more sampling and/or discharging tubes suitable for sampling and/or discharging one or more predetermined volume fractions of the fluid medium from the dissolution vessels.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a refilling device suitable for adding fluid medium to the dissolution vessels.